



# NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

**Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network**  
**Tuesday, April 21, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**  
**President's Conference Room (Bobst Library, 12th Floor)**

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## *Meeting Notes*

### **MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN MEETING**

**Eliot Borenstein**, FAS (Russian & Slavic Studies) *Co-Chair*  
**Sylvain Cappell**, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences  
**Una Chaudhuri**, FAS (English) and Tisch (Drama) *Co-Chair*  
**Kevin Davis**, School of Law  
**Richard Foley**, Administrative Liaison to the Committee (Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning)  
**Chen Jian**, NYU Shanghai  
**Don Garrett**, FAS (Philosophy)  
**Liliana Goldin**, Silver School of Social Work  
**Martin Klimke**, NYU Abu Dhabi (FAS, History)  
**Ritty Lukose**, Gallatin School of Individualized Study  
**Vicki Morwitz**, Leonard N. Stern School of Business  
**Fred Myers**, FAS (Anthropology)  
**Marianne Petit**, NYU Shanghai  
**Arvind Rajagopal**, T-FSC (Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development)  
**Robert Rowe**, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development  
**Mal Semple**, NYU Sydney  
**Paul Smoke**, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service  
**Lisa Springer**, School of Professional Studies  
**Joshua Tucker**, FAS (Politics)  
**Niobe Way**, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

## Report on Meeting

Co-chairs Una Chaudhuri and Eliot Borenstein opened the meeting by welcoming all committee members.

1. The committee followed up on the last meeting's discussion of mobility across the global network and addressed the newly issued Nardello report.
  - a. The co-chairs informed the committee that they have requested a report on mobility from the Provost's office, and expect to receive it by the end of summer 2015.
  - b. One committee member requested that the Provost's report include information on any visa issues faced by new hires in Abu Dhabi.
  - c. It was noted that the T-FSC GNU committee is currently drafting its report, which will be shared with this committee when finalized. The T-FSC GNU committee also discussed mobility and visa issues and the global network, and issued a short statement in accord with this committee's views.
  - d. It was reported that a meeting of NYU Abu Dhabi faculty and staff was recently held for discussion of the Nardello report. The meeting was well attended, and provided a very productive discussion about findings and recommendations. The faculty expressed a mixture of frustration and disappointment, but also relief at the findings in the report, which identified the main source of construction-phase issues as the "baroque" complexity of the monitoring system that prevented NYU Abu Dhabi from delivering on many points. The general focus of the meeting was to move forward, and it was announced that an external compliance monitor would be assigned and appointed soon. The issue of mobility did not arise at this meeting. Participants discussed when compensation to workers would be paid, as well as questions of accountability.
  - e. The co-chairs noted that Rich Baum (Chief of Staff to the President, who worked with Nardello on their report) has offered to debrief the committee. The committee agreed that he should be invited to a future committee meeting.
  - f. Committee members inquired about the possibility of future labor questions arising around the construction of the NYU Shanghai campus, but it was pointed out that the external report on that construction has been out for a while, and no major issues have been identified.
  
2. The committee discussed plans for the organization of inter-portal faculty forums.
  - a. Co-chair Chaudhuri reminded the committee that setting up inter-portal faculty forums was a priority mentioned in the April 9 memo, and that this should be coordinated with the T-FSC GNU committee. However, she continued, it might not be possible to organize this semester for logistical reasons. The committee agreed that planning and attendance would be better if these forums are organized for the fall semester.
  - b. Co-chair Borenstein pointed out that such a forum might be timely in the early fall, when the committee will have just received the Provost's report on mobility in the global network.
  - c. It was agreed that the committee would send an announcement to advertise that it is planning an inter-portal faculty forum, and invite faculty members across the global network to submit suggestions for the agenda.

3. Katy Fleming, Deputy Provost and Director of the Global Research Initiatives (GRI) Program, visited the committee to present the GRI program and answer questions.
  - a. Committee members welcomed Deputy Provost Fleming and introduced themselves.
  - b. Fleming gave a presentation on the GRI program, including the following aspects:
    - i. History: The inspiration for the project began in 1998, when Fleming realized that the ability of faculty and graduate students to conduct short-term research at NYU's Global Sites was limited by infrastructure, space, labor laws, and other factors. The program eventually received a generous amount of support from the offices of Provost McLaughlin and Vice Chancellor Foley, and the program today exists solely to make it possible for faculty in New York and at the Portals and Sites to be able to spend time conducting research in different locations across the global network.
    - ii. Application procedures: Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis through the GRI website. Most of the applications are approved. Faculty members and graduate students may apply more than once, and applications are accepted up to 3 semesters in advance.
    - iii. Program features: GRI fellows receive a private office, and NYU pays for airfare and provides a modest per diem. There is also some administrative support provided at the Site, helping recipients connect to scholars in the host city and providing some funding for those who wish to organize small events such as book launches or colloquia.
    - iv. Graduate students: Interdisciplinary dissertation writing workshops are held in five locations during the summer, each with approximately 10 graduate students close to finishing their dissertations. Graduate students are provided with airfare, housing, meals, offices, and some administrative support.
    - v. NY housing program: About a dozen apartments are available in New York for NY-based faculty who would like to invite international visiting scholars (NYU and external) to campus for a minimum 1-month stay.
    - vi. Collaboration grant: The GRI also administers a fund that supports international collaborations in the form of workshops, conferences, and performances, ideally those that involve faculty members from New York, one of the Portals or Sites, and non-NYU participants. The average grant for such events is around \$10,000.
    - vii. Participation numbers:
      1. Currently, about 200 graduate students and 40 faculty participate in the GRI program annually, spending one semester at another global location on average.
      2. A total of about 88 graduate students participate in the GRI dissertation writing workshops every summer, and plans for more opportunities for M.A. students are under discussion. One of the Sites (Prague) is currently set aside for the use of M.A. students who wish to complete their master's theses abroad.
      3. The program is now reaching capacity, with research institutes currently located in London, Paris, Berlin, Prague, Shanghai, Washington DC, Tel Aviv, and Florence. In all but one instance,

the GRI program is co-located with a Global Study Away site, but is financially and operationally freestanding. Tel Aviv is the one exception, where the Site operates at a site at Tel Aviv University (TAU).

- viii. Vision: The ultimate vision of the GRI is to make the global network truly accessible to NYU faculty and graduate students.
- ix. Fleming noted that she keeps a running list of GRI-related questions that she will continue to raise with the committee.
- c. The committee discussed the following questions with Fleming.
  - i. One committee member inquired about a recently advertised grant of up to \$70,000 for cross-site faculty research, of which faculty were notified by the Provost offices of New York, Abu Dhabi, and Shanghai. Fleming advised that this is unrelated to the GRI program.
  - ii. Committee members asked whether the GRI funds faculty travel to conferences at global Sites. Fleming responded that it does not, and the expectation is that departments and/or individual research funds will be used for conference travel.
  - iii. Committee members observed that for many faculty visiting a city at which NYU has a site, having their own individual offices may be less important than access to a common space that has computer and printing capabilities they could use and where they could also meet with people. Fleming replied that this is possible, and some locations (such as London) are more conducive to such a setup than others.
  - iv. Committee members inquired further about the separation of Study Away and GRI in Tel Aviv. Since the Tel Aviv Study Away site is the most physically isolated of all global Sites, Fleming explained that it is a benefit for visiting faculty to be on the TAU campus, and that the President of TAU has been very helpful in embedding NYU faculty in the TAU community when they arrive.
  - v. Regarding possible locations for new GRI sites, Fleming informed the committee that there is cross-disciplinary faculty and graduate student interest in possibly establishing a modest GRI research site in Athens, where there would be no concurrent Study Away undergraduate program. She also noted that Latin America and India both get strong interest from faculty as a research destination, and might be candidates for the University to establish a research presence, although she added there are no additional sites being planned at the moment.
  - vi. Committee members inquired about the relationship between GRI and the NYU Abu Dhabi Research Institute. Fleming explained that there is no GRI site in Abu Dhabi (but there is in Shanghai) because of the pre-existing framework of the Abu Dhabi Institute, a context in which it seemed the GRI program would not bring much added value. The Abu Dhabi Institute provides funds for similar purposes, but has a different application process.
    - 1. Co-chair Borenstein pointed out that the GRI website mentions that the program supports collaboration between New York, the Sites, and Abu Dhabi and Shanghai. Fleming responded that she would be happy for the committee to propose new wording.

- d. Committee members thanked Deputy Provost Fleming for visiting, and for all the benefits to faculty and graduate student research that the GRI has provided.
4. Given time constraints, co-chairs Chaudhuri and Borenstein noted that they would speak to the chairs of subcommittees individually for updates on subcommittee work.

The meeting was adjourned.